



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

**FPB POLICY
S-13-2**

**SKY LANTERNS (ALSO KNOWN AS WISH LANTERNS,
FLYING LANTERNS, SKY CANDLES, KONGMING
LANTERNS, ETC.) CFC 308**

I. PURPOSE

To eliminate the fire/safety hazards associated with the use of sky lanterns.

II. SCOPE

This policy shall apply to the regulation of sky lanterns.

III. GENERAL

Sky lanterns resemble a small paper hot-air balloon, fuelled by an open flame. When released, the hot air produced by the fuel source can lift the lantern to extreme heights and allows it to drift for long distances until the fuel is depleted. These lanterns are often released in large numbers to generate an impressive visual effect.

These devices have become popular following their use in motion picture and television productions.

IV. HAZARDS

The lantern can achieve an altitude of 1,500 feet or more and they are uncontrolled and have an unpredictable flight path. They can land on trees, combustible grass or wildland brush, on combustible rooftops or on other combustible materials while still ignited and potentially cause a fire.

Approximately 2/3 of the City is classified as a Very-High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. The CFC prohibits the use of open flame devices in or upon wildfire risk areas.

Based on the CFC, the uncontrolled and unpredictable flight path of the lanterns and the fire risk they pose, the use of sky lanterns is not permitted.

Promulgated by: _____

Date: _____

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Fire Prevention Bureau

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